

JSSP

TASS OUTLINES SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR ALL-EUROPEAN OIL CONFERENCE

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("ALTERNATIVE"--TASS HEADLINE)

(TEXT) MOSCOW, 29 FEBRUARY--TASS COMMENTATOR NIKOLAY PORTUGALOV WRITES:

ONE WOULD LIKE TO HOPE THAT THE WEST EUROPEAN ANALYSIS STUDYING LEONID BREZHNEV'S SPEECH BEFORE HIS ELECTORATE IN THE CITY OF MOSCOW ON 22 FEBRUARY WOULD DEVOTE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THAT PORTION OF THE FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WHICH DEALS WITH OIL SUPPLY ROUTES AND WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS AREA IN THE PERSIAN GULF. THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT MATTER, SET OUT HERE WITH EXPRESSIVE CONCISENESS, COULD BECOME THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR ALL-EUROPEAN INITIATIVES OF GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE, WHICH WOULD BE A BENEFICIAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS IN THIS AREA WHICH HAS BEEN PROVOKED BY WASHINGTON.

REGARDING THE NEED TO INSURE THE SAFEGY OF U.S. OIL SUPPLY ROUTES, THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE TO SOME EXTENT. HOWEVER, THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS TURNING THIS AREA INTO A POWDER KEG WHICH WILL HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. AFTER ALL, THE OIL SUPPLY ROUTES AND THEIR SECURITY ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE NOT ONLY FOR THE UNITED STATES BUT TO AN EVEN GREATER EXTENT FOR OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES OF ARAB OIL AND EQUALLY SO FOR THE COUNTRIES PRODUCING AND MARKETING IT. BY UNILATERALLY PROCLAMING THE PERSIAN GULF AREA TO BE A SPHERE OF U.S. VITAL INTERESTS WHERE IT MAY APPLY FORCE ACCORDING TO ITS DISCRETION, WASHINGTON IS VIRTUALLY CLAIMING THE RIGHT OF EXCLUSIVE, OR IN ANY CASE, OF PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO FOREIGN OIL FOR ITS MONOPOLIES.

MOREOVER, BY CONCENTRATING A MIGHTY ARMADA IN THE PERSIAN GULF

SION AND CREATING "QUICK REACTION FORCES," THE UNITED STATES
MAKING NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT IT WILL USE ANY UNFAVORABLE
POL. CHANGES IN THE "OIL COUNTRIES" AS A PRETEXT FOR MILITARY
INTERVENTION.

IN VIEW OF THE UNSTABLE SITUATION IN THIS REGION, ANY SPARK
MAY NOW SET OFF THE GUNPOWDER CELLAR. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS
WULD BE DISASTROUS, IN THE FIRST PLACE TO THE ENERGY SUPPLIES OF
THE WEST.

WHAT IS THE REACTION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS OF WEST EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES AND JAPAN, WHICH DEPEND ON THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST OIL
FIELDS? HOW DO THE UNITED STATES? UP TO NOW THEY HAVE--AT LEAST IN
OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED STATES--SUPPORTED
THE AMERICANS' SLANDEROUS ASSERTIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION, IN ITS
DEEDED ATTEMPT TO BREAK OUT TO THE PERSIAN GULF, POSES A
THREAT TO THE OIL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE WEST, EVEN THOUGH THE VERY
OPPOSITE SITUATION ACTUALLY EXISTS.

WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THE MEANS BY WHICH ARAB OIL
IS SUPPLIED AND DISTRIBUTED, WHICH ARE AT THE DISPOSAL OF TRANSNATIONAL
OIL COMPANIES (MAINLY U.S. ONES), ARE, FOR THE TIME BEING,
UNREPLACEABLE. THAT IS WHY THEY RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH "OIL
SUPPLY CRISES" ARTIFICIALLY CREATED BY THE "SEVEN SISTERS" AND WITH
THE RAPACIOUS SQUANDERING OF ENERGY IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH,
WITHOUT REGARD FOR ITS ALLIES, INCREASES ARAB OIL IMPORTS YEAR IN
AND YEAR OUT. ONE CAN JUST ABOUT UNDERSTAND ALL OF THIS SOMEHOW.
BUT WHEN THE U.S. OIL MONOPOLIES BEGIN TO DETERMINE U.S. GLOBAL
POLICY IN QUESTIONS OF WAR AND PEACE AND, GUIDED SOLELY BY THE DESIRE
TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM PROFITS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, PROMOTE THE
CREATION OF EXPLOSIVE SITUATIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION, IT IS
TIME FOR WEST EUROPE TO SOUND THE ALARM.

NOT ONLY IS THE USSR NOT STRIVING TO "GET A ROUTE TO THE WARM SEAS"
FOR ITSELF, BY FORCE, BUT IT IS ITSELF INTERESTED IN THE SECURITY
OF OIL ROUTES IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. FRG CHANCELLOR SCHREIBER,
IN HIS RECENT INTERVIEW FOR THE JOURNAL DER SPIEGEL, STATED THAT THE
USSR, AS A POTENTIAL PURCHASER OF NEAR EAST OIL, HAS A LEGITIMATE
RIGHT OF ACCESS TO ITS SOURCES. THUS, A DEFINITE PARALLEL OF
INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CAN BE SEEN AS FAR AS THIS ISSUE
IS CONCERNED.

THEREFORE, IT IS QUITE FEASIBLE TO INCLUDE PROBLEMS OF THE SECURITY OF OIL COMMUNICATIONS AND EQUAL COMMERCIAL RIGHTS TO OIL SOURCES OF THE PERSIAN GULF REGION IN THE AGENDA ON THE EUROPEAN-CONFERENCE ON ENERGY, WHICH HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY THE SOVIET UNION. ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SIGNED THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT COULD JOINTLY SUBMIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION PROPOSALS CONCERNING APPROPRIATE GUARANTEES WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THIS WORLD FORUM. IN THE EASTERN COUNTRIES WHICH POSSESS OIL AGREED TO THIS, THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION COULD EXTEND SUCH GUARANTEES TO COVER THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THESE COUNTRIES.

LEONID BREZHNEV STRESSED IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS, AS BEFORE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IT WOULD SEEM, THEREFORE, THAT CORRELATING THE PROBLEM OF EQUAL AND FREE ACCESS TO OIL SOURCES WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THOSE TO WHOM IT BELONGS, AND THE GUARANTEED SECURITY OF THE WAYS OF ITS DELIVERY, AT FIRST WITHIN AN ALL-EUROPE FRAMEWORK AND LATER IN THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION, COULD BECOME A SENSIBLE AND PROMISING ALTERNATIVE TO THE ADVENTURIST-AND HEGEMONISTIC POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION.

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